

THE OLD FAMILY SKELETON

Even as You and I!



The Sandman Story A CAT FABLE.

Little Tim Kitten had tried to catch a bird and his grandmother Granny Cat, was telling him how wicked it was. "You have a nice home," she told Tim Kitten, "and plenty of food, and the mouse does not want a cat about that eats birds or chickens." "But, Granny, what makes me want to catch the mouse and birds if it is wicked?" asked Tim Kitten. "I expect it is the old Witch Cat," replied Granny Cat. "Who is the old Witch Cat?" asked Tim Kitten. "Is it a story?" he asked, sitting very close to Granny Cat. "Do tell it to me if it is." "Will you promise not to catch any more birds or chickens?" asked Granny Cat. Tim Kitten promised and Granny Cat began her story. "Once there lived a Witch Cat, a big, black creature, in a forest all by herself, and she had the power to change things into any form she liked, because the old witch with whom she had lived left her this power when she died." "One day Witch Cat caught a bird, and just as she was about to have it for her dinner she heard the bird say, 'If only I could be one for a minute before I die.'"

"What is that you say?" asked Witch Cat, who was very inquisitive and could not bear to miss knowing everything—even the thoughts of others. "I said," replied the bird, as Witch Cat stood over it on the ground, "that I could die happy if only I had been for one short minute a beautiful tiger. But, alas, now I must die without ever having my wish granted!"

"Witch Cat began to laugh. 'How funny,' she said, 'that a little creature like you should wish such a wish, and how funny you would look changed into such a big animal! I have half a mind to grant it for a minute and let you die happy.'"

"Oh, if you only would!" said the bird. "You are a witch, I am sure it would not cost you any discomfort."

"I will grant it," said Witch Cat. "Become a tiger for a minute!"

Quick as a flash the bird on the ground was changed into a crouching tiger, and in another instant it sprang at Witch Cat, but Witch Cat was too quick, and jumped aside, while the tiger landed in the bushes and made ready for another spring.

"I will soon fix you when your minute is up," said Witch Cat with flashing eyes, but the tiger now ran a little distance, and when the minute was up and it became a bird again it was not near enough to Witch Cat for her to catch.

"The minute the tiger became a bird up it flew to a tree far above Witch Cat's reach, and, spreading its wings, the bird called out as it flew away, 'Catch me if you can, you wicked creature.'"

"Is it a true story?" asked Tim Kitten, when the grandmother finished. "Oh, no, a fable is never a true story," said Granny Cat, "but when kittens are naughty, we always say that the old Witch Cat is in them, and now you know what it means."

"But I have seen some grown-up kittens trying to catch the birds," said Tim Kitten. "Is the old Witch Cat in them, too?"

"Yes; and that is because they did not mind when they were young and got it out, as I am trying to do with you, so you will grow up to be a good, well-mannered house cat and always have a good home," said Granny Cat.

The next time a bird was on the ground and Tim Kitten wanted to catch it he remembered what his grandmother had told him and ran into the house.

"I would not let the old Witch Cat get it," he said. "I ran in so the bird could fly away."

"That is right," said Granny Cat. "If all kittens were like you we should not have to tell that Witch Cat story. It would have to be taken out of our book of cat fables."—Copyright, 1919.

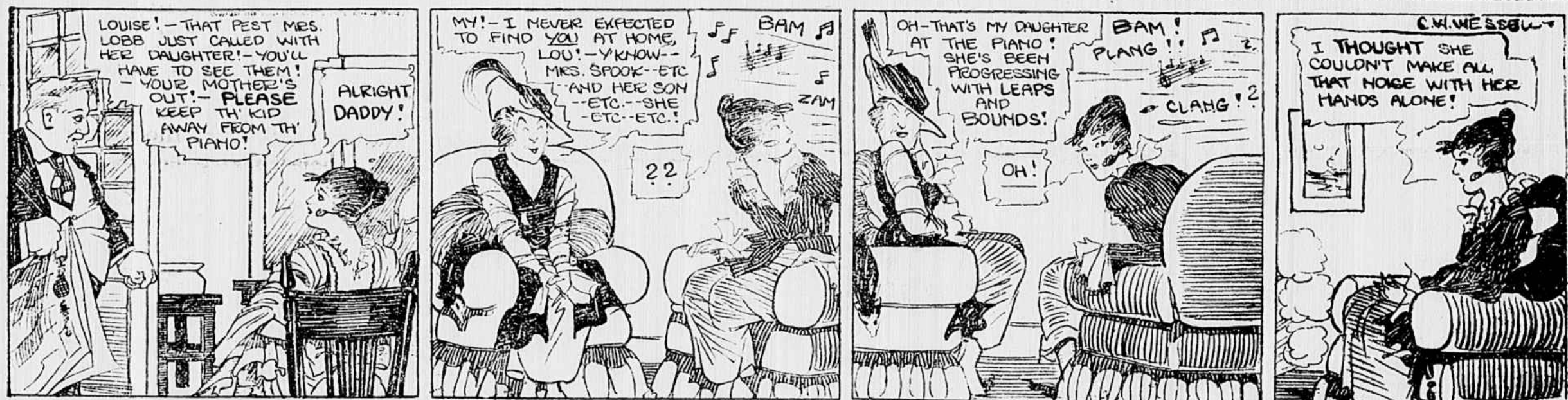
JOE'S CAR

It Will Be Warmer When You Tell the Wife, Joe!



LEAVE IT TO LOU

The Music Certainly Was Jumped On!



The Day's Good Stories FROM MANY SOURCES

Playing to a Crowd. "Two is company, three is a crowd," "I like that adage," declared Vorick Hamm. "It has frequently made me feel better when estimating the size of an audience out front."

Smart, at That. "I guess my wife thinks I'm a pretty smart fan."

"Why?"

"She admits that I am half as smart as she thought I was the day we were married."

Conservation. Pickle Manufacturer—People don't want to eat seeds in ketchup, so we squeeze out the seeds.

Inquisitive Friend.—And what do you do with the seeds?

Pickle Manufacturer—Put them in raspberry jam. Makes it look more natural like and tasty.

Could Take a Joke. A benevolent old gentleman was stopped by a tramp, who asked for money to get a night's lodging. "Well, look here, my man," the old gentleman said, "what would you say if I offered you work?"

"Bless yer life, sir," came the reply. "I wouldn't mind a bit. I can take a joke same as most people!"

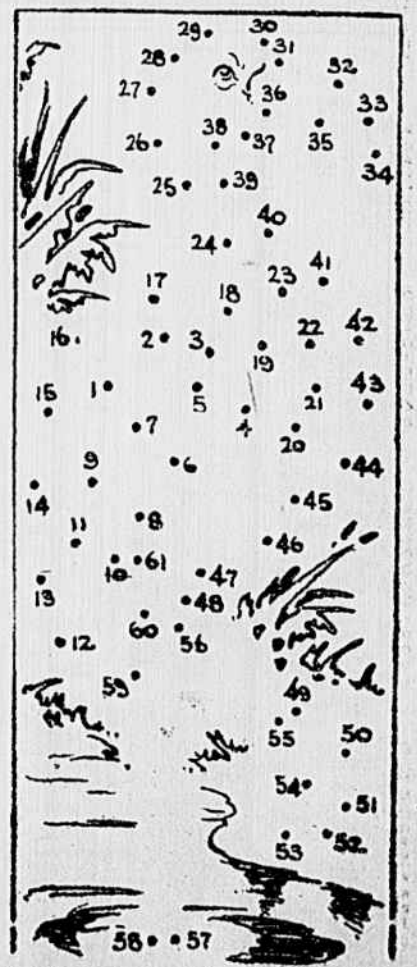
Completed Accounts. "I can't see if 7 cents' worth of milk and sugar in an ice cream soda," exclaimed the man who persists in talking about what he can't help.

"Remember," said the store manager, "you must pay for labor as well as material."

"The labor of drawing the soda isn't so much."

"No. But think about the labor of making change."

Puzzle Picture



Sixty-one lines and you'll know, How to draw a picture like this. Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

LITTLE MARY MIX-UP

Mother Is Somewhat Jarred Herself!



THE BIG LITTLE FAMILY

We'll Say He's a Hero!

